



**WASHINGTON
STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
(SERC)**

MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Deputy Chief Jeff Jensen, City of Tacoma Fire Department - SERC Chair
- Chief Deputy Howard Scartozzi, Washington State Patrol - Alternate Washington State Patrol Representative
- Mr. Richard Schroedel, Pierce County Emergency Management - Primary Emergency Manager Representative
- Ms. Maillian Uphaus, Washington State Emergency Management Division - Primary Washington State Military Department Representative
- Mr. John Butler, Washington State Department of Ecology - Primary Washington State Department of Ecology Representative
- Mr. Sam Lorenz, Grant County Department of Emergency Management – Primary Eastside Local Emergency Planning Committee Representative
- John Scheer, Franklin County Emergency Management – Alternate Local Emergency Planning Committee Eastside Representative
- Mr. John Wheeler, Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency – Primary Local Emergency Planning Committee Westside Representative
- Brian Felczak, City of Kent Emergency Management – Alternate Local Emergency Planning Committee Westside Representative
- Lee Shipman, Shoalwater Bay Tribe – Tribal Representative
- John Geppert, Primary Department of Labor and Industries Representative
- Darren James, Alternate Department of Labor and Industries Representative

STATE STAFF and GUESTS PRESENT

- Mr. John Himmel, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Mr. Ron Bowen, Washington State Patrol
- Ms. Sadie Whitener, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Mr. Jim Kadrmas, Washington State Emergency Management Division
- Ms. Rosanne Garrand, Washington State Emergency Management Division
- Ms. Idell Hansen, Environmental Protection Agency
- Ms. Suzanne Powers, Environmental Protection Agency

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Jeff Jensen, the SERC chair. Self-introductions were made by those present.



Approval of Minutes

Chair Jeff Jensen motioned for approval of the December 7, 2010 minutes. The motion was passed.

Chair Comments

Chair Jeff Jensen welcomed all members.

WORKGROUP REPORTS:

EPCRA Reporting Compliance/ Industry Outreach

Sadie Whitener, Washington State Department of Ecology

- Sadie reported that thousands of reports have been submitted to the SERC and the data is being entered.
- Sadie also stated that staff had strongly promoted the Tier Two Online reporting application this year. To date, users have registered to report for 2400 facilities statewide, which means that the data will be available earlier than in previous years.
- Sadie shared that Ecology and EPA staff had recently conducted three EPCRA Workshops: two for Grant County and one for Okanogan County. Another is scheduled for the Clark County LEPC in a couple days. Clark County invited businesses from neighboring counties to participate in the workshops.
- Jeff questioned how workshops are scheduled. Sadie reported that the LEPCs are invited to host workshops and she coordinates dates with them and EPA staff. There are typically at least six per year. This was an unusual year.

For further information, contact Ms. Sadie Whitener at (360) 407-6729 or email: swhi461@ecy.wa.gov.

Training Coordination

Ron Bowen, Washington State Patrol

- Classes are progressing and going well.
- The HAMMER Facility Hazardous Materials Course will take place the first week of April. Registrations are full. Jim Kadrmas stated that so far we have 151 people signed up for the 2-day workshop and 57 people signed up for the 3-day workshop.
- Jeff questioned how tribes are being notified. Jim Kadrmas stated that he maintains contact lists, but relies on Lee Shipman from the Shoalwater Bay Tribe and Arlen Moses from the Yakama Nation as the leads to get the word out. Sadie sent out two announcements and is working with Ecology Spills staff to develop a 24-hr Tribal Contact list for Ecology, Duty Officers, and other interested parties. This will help a great deal and she will share it with SERC members upon completion.
- The State Fire Chiefs Association Hazardous Material Conference will occur in May.
- Ron stated he is conducting a lot of awareness classes throughout the state. Anyone needing an awareness classes let him know.

For further information contact Ron Bowen at (360) 596-3923 or e-mail ron.bowen@wsp.wa.gov



NEW BUSINESS

LEPC/Tribal Conference Funding Use:

A request was made to allow LEPCs and TERCs to use money that may be left over from the cancelled LEPC/Tribal Conference. The suggestion was that the money would be applied for by the LEPC/TERC on a competitive basis to be used for training.

Jim Kadrmas replied that initially he had \$41,000 from EMPG funds available to pay for lodging for both the LEPC/Tribal Conference and HAMMER Workshop. When the LEPC/Tribal Conference was cancelled, it was decided by the planning committee to use the money from the Conference to increase participation at the HAMMER Workshop, thereby supporting the LEPCs and TERCs through increased responder training. Additionally, \$12,000 of the \$41,000 was now being used for other priorities within EMD and that had dropped the total available to \$29,000. The current hotel reservation costs for the HAMMER Workshop is \$27,000, leaving approximately \$2,000 available for LEPCs and TERCs to compete for. In order for the \$2,000 to be made available, a competitive announcement would need to be made, applications would need to be submitted, a panel would need to convene and determine the award recipient and, because they would be using EMPG funds, it would need to be spent by June 30, 2011. The SERC Members decided to withdraw the recommendation.

For further information contact Jim Kadrmas at (253) 512-7069 or e-mail, j.kadrmas@emd.wa.gov

SERC Funding Status

The question was asked about the status of funding to support SERC activities. Maillian Uphaus provided an update on the issue using the information made available to her through EMD. Maillian explained that funding is provided to EMD in order to carry out SERC responsibilities in three ways.

EMPG – FEMA's Emergency Management Performance Grant are funds that are made available to states in order to enhance their emergency management performance. Although EMPG funds are primarily intended to support the overall EMD mission, if enough funding is available it may also be used to support SERC activities, such as the HAMMER Workshop and LEPC/Tribal Conference. Maillian pointed out that given the current state of the economy, there is no guarantee that this funding will continue.

SERC – Revenue from the Worker and Community Right-to-Know Account (Fund 163) comes from fees that businesses pay to the Department of Labor and Industries (LNI). LNI uses some of these funds to administer the Worker Right-to-Know Program and the Department of Ecology is authorized to use funds to administer the Community Right-to-Know Program. The Emergency Management Division also uses these funds to carry out its EPCRA/SERC mission. For EMD, that equates to approx \$350,000 per biennium and is used to pay salary and benefits for 1.9 FTE's. In addition, approximately \$1.6 million has been requested in the Governor's 2012-13 budget from Fund 163 (separately and in addition to the \$350,000) to sustain the State EOC. This is a newly



proposed use for Fund 163. In the near future CSEPP funding will end as the Umatilla Chemical Depot shuts down. CSEPP funds were the sole source of funding for the State EOC.

Additional information on the Right-to-Know Assessment Program, such as how the fees are assessed and what the collected fees are used for is available at LNI's web site at: www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/RTK/default.asp

HMEP – The Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) is offered by the U.S. DOT and applied for annually by EMD. The money received is then passed through to the LEPC/TERC for hazardous materials planning and to the WSP for hazardous materials responder training. Awards have been about \$357,000 annually. This year WSP received about 80% (approx \$257,000) leaving approx \$86,000 available for the LEPC/TERC and program administration.

For further information contact Jim Kadrmas at (253) 512-7069 or e-mail, j.kadrmas@emd.wa.gov

Round Table Discussion

John Geppert – What is the status on ESF 10 and the Hazmat Template? Jeff Jensen replied that the CEMP should address ESF 10 and allow teams to bind. John Wheeler and Richard Schroedel also asked about the status on the Hazmat Response Plan Template. Jim commented that Bob Isaman is still working the review, but has been involved in the review of CEMP's and other tasks. Jim informed the group that he would ask Bob to brief the members on the status at the next meeting.

Sam Lorenz – Sam reported that he has invited LNI to provide a briefing on confined spaces, looking at dust explosions and ammonia.

Brian Felczak – Brian reported that they have created an operations plan for the Howard Hanson Dam for a hazmat event. Brian also requests that the SERC post onto a website lessons learned from the Japan event. Jim Kadrmas said he would look into working with Public Education to get a site set up. Brian asked how much the Emergency Response Guides (ERG) cost. Jim replied that they cost nothing and that he is the POC for the delivery of one free ERG for each public response vehicle in the state. Jim said that he expects that the new 2012 version should be delivered to EMD sometime in early summer and he is in the process now of working through the LEPC/TERC to find out how many they need. Jim said that once the books come in he'll try to get a truck and deliver them for anyone who cannot come pick them up.

Sadie Whitener – Sadie asked members to think about suggestions for next year's LEPC/Tribal Conference and send their thoughts to Jim. For example, "Would folks attend if they had to pay for their own lodging?" Can we still hold it if people pay on their own? Ron Bowen suggested that maybe we consider alternating years – one for the LEPC/Tribal Conference and the other for the HAMMER Training. Jeff Jensen commented that maybe a local jurisdiction may offer to hold the conference or if there is no money, consider cancelling them altogether. The members agreed that it's too early to decide. More information on budget impacts is needed.



Sadie also reported that there have been some recent articles written by investigative West reporters on the refineries located in Washington State. The articles can be accessed through the following links:

<http://invw.org/content/toxic-acid-puts-millions-at-risk>

<http://www.invw.org/content/conocophillips-refinery%E2%80%99s-record-includes-38-violation-notices-from-air-agency>

Lee Shipman – Lee stated that as far as tribes go, they find the LEPC/Tribal conference very valuable. Do not cancel the LEPC/Tribal Conference or HAMMER Workshops.

Richard Schroedel – Richard would like progress made towards the review of the HAZMAT Response Plan Template.

Idell Hansen – Idell let the group know that EPA is available if needed.

Suzanne Powers – Suzanne stated that Ted Mix may retire and that they have money available to hire an environmental person. Suzanne also said that if you need help or support, contact them.

Ron Bowen – Ron said he was open for suggestions about the workshops and conferences. Ron will continue to provide hazmat training throughout state as long as the funding is available.

Jim Kadrmas – Jim said that he is required to conduct sub-recipient monitoring of HMEP contracts that are provided to LEPCs or tribes and for EMPG contracts that are provided to WSP and OSPI. So far WSP's and OSPI's have been done. Jim will be scheduling visits with the contract POC's in the coming months. Jim also said that he will be receiving the pre-award amount for the HMEP Grant next month, which will be used to determine the amounts available for planning and training.

John Butler – John stated that Ecology is concerned about the railroads' lack of participation within the Incident Command System during hazmat incidents. He gave a recent example involving a BNSF train derailment in University Place. John also reported that they are working on an abandoned vessel pollution incident near Camas named the *Davy Crockett*.

Next /Future Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on June 14, 2011 from 10:00 to 12:00. The meeting location will be at Grant County Emergency Management, 1525 E. Wheeler Road, Moses Lake.

Adjournment

Deputy Chief Jeff Jensen, SERC Chair, commented that the meeting was very productive and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.